

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IB 03/03228

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N21/47 H01S3/067 H01S3/094

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N H01S

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99 57507 A (RICHARDS KORTUM REBECCA ;UNIV TEXAS (US); UTZINGER URS (US); ZULUA) 11 November 1999 (1999-11-11) page 33, line 5 -page 35, line 25; figure 3	1,8,9
Y	BOUMA B E ET AL: "OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHIC IMAGING OF HUMAN TISSUE AT 1.55 MUM AND 1.81 MUM USING ER- AND TM-DOPED FIBER SOURCES" JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL OPTICS, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR OPTICAL ENGINEERING (SPIE), US, vol. 3, no. 1, January 1998 (1998-01), pages 76-79, XP001080765 ISSN: 1083-3668	1,8,9
A	page 77, column 2 page 79, column 1	2
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stuebner, B

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National Application No

PCT/IB 03/03228

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SHARP R C ET AL: "190-FS PASSIVELY MODE-LOCKED THULIUM FIBER LASER WITH A LOW THRESHOLD" OPTICS LETTERS, OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, US, vol. 21, no. 12, 15 June 1996 (1996-06-15), pages 881-883, XP000594905 ISSN: 0146-9592	8
A	page 881, column 1, paragraph 3 -page 882, column 1, paragraph 2	1-7,9
Y	EP 1 041 686 A (TRW INC) 4 October 2000 (2000-10-04) column 1, line 33 - line 47	9
A	WO 02 37075 A (TYCHO ANDREAS ;BJARKLEV ANDERS (DK); ANDERSEN PETER E (DK); FORSKN) 10 May 2002 (2002-05-10) page 10, line 16 - line 27	1,8
A	WO 97 32182 A (MASSACHUSETTS INST TECHNOLOGY) 4 September 1997 (1997-09-04) page 2, line 7 - line 14 page 7, line 4 - line 22 page 10, line 28 -page 11, line 13	1,8

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/03228

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9957507	A	11-11-1999	AU 3781799 A WO 9957507 A1	23-11-1999 11-11-1999
EP 1041686	A	04-10-2000	US 6366356 B1 EP 1041686 A2 JP 2000323774 A	02-04-2002 04-10-2000 24-11-2000
WO 0237075	A	10-05-2002	AU 1210502 A CA 2426714 A1 WO 0237075 A2 EP 1356250 A2	15-05-2002 10-05-2002 10-05-2002 29-10-2003
WO 9732182	A	04-09-1997	US 6134003 A AU 1977597 A EP 0883793 A1 JP 2000503237 T JP 2002214127 A US 6485413 B1 US 6111645 A WO 9732182 A1 US 6160826 A US 6564087 B1 US 6501551 B1 US 6282011 B1 US 5956355 A US 2001036002 A1	17-10-2000 16-09-1997 16-12-1998 21-03-2000 31-07-2002 26-11-2002 29-08-2000 04-09-1997 12-12-2000 13-05-2003 31-12-2002 28-08-2001 21-09-1999 01-11-2001